

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Corso on December 16, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (currently amended) A nonwoven production machine including alternate path and pathways for selected web travel and processing comprising:

a spun bond tower for depositing filaments as a web on an upper run of a first conveyor extending a first direction,

a first means for forwarding said web from said first conveyor to a first water jet consolidation unit along a path having a second direction other than said first direction, a second conveyor for forwarding the web leaving the first consolidation unit to a second waterjet consolidation unit, said web leaving said second waterjet consolidation unit being directed to said an application unit for final processing,

a calender located downstream of said first means in said first direction for producing a calendered web that has bypassed said first waterjet consolidation unit,

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said second waterjet consolidation unit being located downstream of said calender in said first direction, and

a deflection means for deflecting said calendered web in a first pathway directly to said application unit or in a second pathway, different from said first pathway, to said second waterjet consolidation unit with said web then being directed from said second waterjet consolidation unit to said application unit, both pathways being possible with the production machine,

whereby processing of said web produced by a single feed to said spun bond tower may be selected to form nonwoven of different grades corresponding with the selected processing.

Claims 20-26 have been canceled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest, the nonwoven production machine, as recited by instant claims 13-19, particularly including the calender located downstream of said first means in said first direction for producing the calendered web that has bypassed said first waterjet consolidation unit, said second waterjet consolidation unit being located downstream of said calender in said first direction, and the deflection means for deflecting said calendered web in the first pathway directly to said application unit or in the second pathway, different from said first pathway, to said second waterjet consolidation unit with said web then being directed from said second waterjet

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consolidation unit to said application unit, both pathways being possible with the production machine, whereby processing of said web produced by the single feed to said spun bond tower may be selected to form nonwoven of different grades corresponding with the selected processing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH LEYSON whose telephone number is (571)272-5061. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gupta Yogendra can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert B. Davis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/J. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 1791